

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. My Cricket bill has gone up continuously for the past 2 years. They persuaded me to get my bills via text messaging by telling me they would charge me an extra \$1 every month if I continued receiving paper bills. I have no problem saving the paper waste, but now I have no itemization to let me know why they keep raising my bill nearly every month. Their explanation is that taxes keep going up, and my question is why are they the only cell company that this seems to affect on billing? I am probably going to get a different cell service, but this is still very aggravating and should be illegal. I should have the right to itemized billing without being charged for it. Every customer should have the right to know what they are being charged for.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.